

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (original) A device for dispensing tablet- or capsule-shaped medicaments in desired doses, the device comprising a collar-shaped cassette body (1), including a central opening (2) surrounded by an open-top annular space which is divided by partitions (4) for dosage containers (3), and a cover (11), concealing the dosage containers, rotatable relative to the cassette body (1), and provided adjacent to its circular rim with a dispensing aperture (13) which is coincidable with any dosage container (3) by rotating the cover (11), the cover (11) further including a central recess (12) or a collar ring, which is fit to be embedded in the body's central opening (2), and the body is provided with a knurling (6), having a pitch which is matched to that of the dosage containers (3), and the cover (11) is provided with pawls (16) set for cooperation with the knurling (6), which provide a retaining response against rotation of the cover (11) once the cover's aperture (13) is in coincidence with a given dosage container (3), characterized in that the recess (12) or the collar ring of the cover (11) is provided with a window (14), through which is visible a dispensing time for at least one dose which is printed on a dispensing schedule placed in the body's central opening (2), and that the pawls (16) are designed for allowing rotation of the cover (11) in either direction, and that said retaining response is more powerful in the cover's rotating direction backward in the dispensing schedule than in its rotating direction forward in the dispensing schedule.

2. (currently amended) A device as set forth in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the knurling (6) is located on the circular rim of the central opening (2) and the pawls (16) comprise flexible tabs present on the outer rim of the cover's recess (12) or collar ring.

3. (currently amended) A device as set forth in claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized in that~~ wherein the body's top edge has its outer rim provided with a circular hem (8) and the cover (11) has its rim provided with inwardly directed lugs (18), the circular hem (8) being provided, at a pitch complementary thereto, with discontinuities (9) which, in just one rotary position of the cover (11), establish passages for the lugs (18) which, by rotating the cover (11), are engageable behind the circular hem (8) for retaining the cover (11) in contact with the body (1) in all other positions except said rotary position allowing a passage of the lugs (18).

4. (currently amended) A device as set forth in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein between the first and last dosage containers (3) lies a solid-top and open-bottom compartment (10, 10a), which occupies a space matching the dosage containers' pitch, and that, in the rotary position allowing a passage of the lugs (18), the cover's dispensing aperture falls alongside the closed compartment (10, 10a).

5. (currently amended) A device as set forth in ~~any of claims 1-4, characterized in that~~ claim 1 wherein the cover has its outer rim provided with a knurling (17) for a finger grip which facilitates rotation of the cover.

6. (currently amended) A device as set forth in ~~any of claims 1-5, characterized in that~~ claim 1 wherein the dispensing schedule (2) is removable and replaceable.

7. (new) A device as set forth in claim 2 wherein the body's top edge has its outer rim provided with a circular hem (8) and the cover (11) has its rim provided with inwardly directed lugs (18), the circular hem (8) being provided, at a pitch complementary thereto, with discontinuities (9) which, in just one rotary position of the cover (11), establish passages for the lugs (18) which, by rotating the cover (11), are engageable behind the circular hem (8) for retaining the cover (11) in contact with the body (1) in all other positions except said rotary position allowing a passage of the lugs (18).

8. (new) A device as set forth in claim 7, wherein between the first and last dosage containers (3) lies a solid-top and open-bottom compartment (10, 10a), which occupies a space matching the dosage containers' pitch, and that, in the rotary position allowing a passage of the lugs (18), the cover's dispensing aperture falls alongside the closed compartment (10, 10a).

9. (new) A device as set forth in claim 2 wherein the cover has its outer rim provided with a knurling (17) for a finger grip which facilitates rotation of the cover.

10. (new) A device as set forth in claim 3 wherein the cover has its outer rim provided with a knurling (17) for a finger grip which facilitates rotation of the cover.

11. (new) A device as set forth in claim 4 wherein the cover has its outer rim provided with a knurling (17) for a finger grip which facilitates rotation of the cover.

12. (new) A device as set forth in claim 7 wherein the cover has its outer rim provided with a knurling (17) for a finger grip which facilitates rotation of the cover.

13. (new) A device as set forth in claim 8 wherein the cover has its outer rim provided with a knurling (17) for a finger grip which facilitates rotation of the cover.

14. (new) A device as set forth in claim 2 wherein the dispensing schedule (2) is removable and replaceable.

15. (new) A device as set forth in claim 3 wherein the dispensing schedule (2) is removable and replaceable.

16. (new) A device as set forth in claim 4 wherein the dispensing schedule (2) is removable and replaceable.

17. (new) A device as set forth in claim 5 wherein the dispensing schedule (2) is removable and replaceable.

18. (new) A device as set forth in claim 7 wherein the dispensing schedule (2) is removable and replaceable.

19. (new) A device as set forth in claim 8 wherein the dispensing schedule (2) is removable and replaceable.

20. (new) A device as set forth in claim 9 wherein the dispensing schedule (2) is removable and replaceable.

21. (new) A device as set forth in claim 10 wherein the dispensing schedule (2) is removable and replaceable.

22. (new) A device as set forth in claim 11 wherein the dispensing schedule (2) is removable and replaceable.

23. (new) A device as set forth in claim 12 wherein the dispensing schedule (2) is removable and replaceable.

24. (new) A device as set forth in claim 13 wherein the dispensing schedule (2) is removable and replaceable.